

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
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Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

September 1908. “Mayor Harper, a coterie of Councilmen, and members of the Harbor Commission spent yesterday riding over the waters of the great free harbor at San Pedro. The city officials were interested most in the dredging of the channel through the east basin of the inner harbor. It is on the shores of this basin that the municipal docks will probably be constructed when Los Angeles, San Pedro and Wilmington are united by consolidation.... While looking over the breakwater city officials talked of harbor construction on a mammoth scale by securing additional appropriations for building the sea wall further down the coast.” *Los Angeles Times* (September 16, 1908) pg II6.

September 1908. “‘There is no reason in the world why the San Pedro harbor should not make Los Angeles the greatest maritime center on the Pacific Coast with its continued development,’ stated Alphonso B. Bowers, one of the most widely-known civil engineers in the world.... ‘Backed by the industries of this section, the growing trade with the Orient and the fact that Los Angeles is the nearest ocean outlet for an immense back territory, it should rise to a place of prominence that will make it the chief port of entry on the Pacific side when the Panama Canal is completed.’” *Los Angeles Times* (September 25, 1908) pg II11.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CORRECTIONS

Ten Steps Corrections Directors Can Take to Strengthen Performance. By Michael Blanding, Pew Center on the States. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2008. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/GPP.PSPPFinal.pdf>

["As part of its assessment of overall state government performance, the Pew Center on the States conducted hundreds of hours of interviews with a wide cross section of officials from 45 state corrections departments in an effort to spotlight the most effective management practices. Across the country, innovative policy makers and corrections managers are joining forces to improve correctional systems' performance, transparency and accountability. We offer the following management practices as a menu of the strategies currently under way that can be employed to strengthen prison operations and, ultimately, to cut crime and tame spiraling prison costs."]

[Request #S08-45-2867]

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CRIME RATES

Violent Crime in 100 U.S. Cities. By Jeffrey A. Butts, Chapin Hall Center for Children. (The Center, Chicago, Illinois) 2008. 21 p.

Full text at: http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1474

["This study examines violent crime in 100 U.S. cities and reviews the direction and magnitude of crime trends between the years 1985 and 2007. Using simple visual inspections of their long-term crime trends, the study assigns each city to one of four groups....According to the analysis, only nine cities (including 6% of the population) are experiencing generally increasing violent crime rates, while 50 cities (including 67% of the population) are seeing generally decreasing violent crime.... Across all 100 cities in this study, recent increases in overall violent crime are small compared with the scale of violence seen in recent decades. America's long period of falling crime may have ended, but it is not accurate to characterize recent trends as a new wave of widespread violence or as the beginning of an irreversible trend."]
[Request #S08-45-2816]

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PRISONERS

Parents in Prison and Their Minor Children. By Lauren E. Glaze and Laura M. Maruschak, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) August 2008. 25 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf>

["This report compares estimates of the number of incarcerated parents and their children under the age of 18, by gender, age, race, and Hispanic origin in state and federal prisons. The report describes selected background characteristics of parents in prisons, including marital status, citizenship, education, offense type, criminal history, employment, prior experiences of homelessness, drug and alcohol involvement, mental health, and physical and sexual abuse. It provides family background of inmate parents including household makeup, public assistance received by household, drug and alcohol use, and incarceration of family members. It includes information on the children's daily care, financial support, current caregivers, and frequency and type of contact with incarcerated parents."]
[Request #S08-45-2836]

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DEMOGRAPHY

LOS ANGELES

The State of South L.A. By Paul Ong and others, UCLA School of Public Affairs. (The School, Los Angeles, California) August 2008. 53 p.

Full text at: <http://www.spa.ucla.edu/pdf/State%20of%20South%20LA%20-%20Final%20Report1.pdf>

["In 1990, Latinos and African Americans each comprised 47% of the area's population; today Latinos outnumber blacks 2 to 1. But that ethnic transformation is one of the few dramatic changes in an area that for decades has known one constant: poverty. Almost one-third of the area's residents have been living below the poverty line since 1990.... The study sought to define 60 square miles with about 885,000 people, close to 10% of the county's population.... In South L.A., fewer residents have skills, high school diplomas and college degrees than in other parts of the county. Unemployment is higher and workers earn less.... Although property crime rates in South L.A. (27 offenses per 1,000) were roughly equal to the county rate, violent crime was twice as high." Los Angeles Times (September 14, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-45-2868]

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ECONOMY

BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Competitive States: Texas v. California: Economic Growth Prospects for the 21st Century. By Arduin, Laffer & Moore Econometrics. (Texas Public Policy Foundation, Austin, Texas) August 2008. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.texaspolicy.com/pdf/2008-09-CompetitiveStates-laffer.pdf>

["Combined, these states contribute 22 percent of America's gross domestic product; separately, each would rank among the 10 largest economies in the world. But while these states are America's economic engines, Texas' purrs smoothly while California's sputters. Texas is now home to more Fortune 500 companies than any other state in America.... California's current economic pain is self-inflicted. Businesses are better able to provide more jobs where taxes, regulations and government expenditures are low. What business or individual wants to risk their time and money if the potential rewards go to government rather than themselves?" Dallas Morning News (September 15, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-45-2880]

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CITIES

Best-Performing Cities 2008: Where America's Jobs Are Created and Sustained. By Ross DeVol and others, Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) September 2008. 62 p.

Full text at: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/bpc2008.pdf>

["This year's rankings of where America's jobs are being created and sustained shows the impact of a broad rebound in the technology sector, along with strong activity in exports and energy production. Several metros that once dominated the rankings fell due to a sharp downturn in their housing and construction markets; locations in Florida and California took particularly sharp hits.... Powered by a cluster of high-tech employers, Provo, Utah, has seized the number-one spot in the latest edition of the index. It is joined at the top of the 2008 rankings by other growing metro areas in Utah, Texas, Washington, Alabama and the Carolinas."] [Request #S08-45-2865]

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INCOME INEQUITY

Racial Discrimination and Competition. By Ross Levine and others, Brown University. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) August 2008. 51 p.

Full text at: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14273>

["This paper assesses the impact of competition on racial discrimination. The dismantling of inter- and intrastate bank restrictions by U.S. states from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s reduced financial market imperfections and lowered entry barriers facing nonfinancial firms. We use bank deregulation to identify an exogenous intensification of competition in the nonfinancial sector, and evaluate its impact on the racial wage gap. We find that bank deregulation reduced the racial wage gap by spurring the entry of nonfinancial firms. Consistent with theory, the impact of competition on the wage gap is particularly large in states with a comparatively high degree of racial bias, where competition-enhancing bank deregulation eliminated between 20 and 30 percent of the racial wage gap."] [Request #S08-45-2835]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

How Technology Sectors Grow: Benchmarking IT Industry Competitiveness, 2008. By Kim Thomas, Economist Intelligence Unit. (The Unit, London, United Kingdom) September 2008. 30 p.

Full text at:

http://a330.g.akamai.net/7/330/25828/20080910172933/graphics.eiu.com/upload/BSA_2008.pdf

["Technology spending may be softening in many parts of the world as the credit crunch bites, but the longer term fundamentals of IT industry competitiveness remain constant. An innovation-friendly culture, a steady flow of talent, advanced technology infrastructure, a robust legal regime, well-balanced government support and an open business environment are all vital factors that enable a country's IT producers to thrive. These form the basis of the Economist Intelligence Unit's 'IT industry competitiveness index', in which the United States ranks as first in the world in 2008, maintaining its top position from the previous year."]

[Request #S08-45-2891]

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EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

Robert Martinez, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al. California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. C054124. September 15, 2008. 84 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/C054124.PDF>

["A court has put a financial cloud over the future of tens of thousands of undocumented California college students, saying a state law that grants them the same heavily subsidized tuition rate that is given to resident students is in conflict with federal law.... Federal law says an illegal immigrant cannot receive that benefit unless the same benefit is extended to all U.S. citizens without regard to California residency.... UC and the other schools argue that despite the appellate court's opinion, the benefit is not based on residency.... UC attorney Chris Patti said. 'The fee is based on whether you went to a California high school and graduated from a California high school, and those criteria are not based on residency.'" San Francisco Chronicle (September 16, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-45-2878]

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SCHOOL CHOICE

Markets vs. Monopolies in Education: A Global Review of the Evidence. By Andrew J. Coulson, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2008. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa620.pdf>

["Would large-scale, free-market reforms improve educational outcomes for American children? That question cannot be answered by looking at domestic evidence alone. Though innumerable 'school choice' programs have been implemented around the United States, none has created a truly free and competitive education marketplace. Existing programs are too small, too restriction laden, or both.... In more than one hundred statistical comparisons covering eight different educational outcomes, the private sector outperforms the public sector in the overwhelming majority of cases. Moreover, that margin of superiority is greatest when the freest and most market-like private schools are compared to the least open and least competitive government systems (i.e., those resembling a typical U.S. public school system)."]

[Request #S08-45-2864]

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TEACHERS

Teacher Preparation and Student Achievement. By Donald Boyd, University of Albany, and others. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) September 2008. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14314>

["There are fierce debates over the best way to prepare teachers. Some argue that easing entry into teaching is necessary to attract strong candidates, while others argue that investing in high quality teacher preparation is the most promising approach. Most agree, however, that we lack a strong research basis for understanding how to prepare teachers. This paper is one of the first to estimate the effects of features of teachers' preparation on teachers' value-added to student test score performance in math and English Language Arts. Our results indicate variation across preparation programs in the average effectiveness of the teachers they are supplying to New York City schools. In particular, preparation directly linked to practice appears to benefit teachers in their first year."]

[Request #S08-45-2879]

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EMPLOYMENT

OFFSHORING

The Offshoring of Engineering: Facts, Unknowns, and Potential Implications. By the Committee on the Offshoring of Engineering, National Academy of Engineering. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) August 2008.

["Among the occupations subject to offshoring are highly paid professions, including engineering, that are essential to U.S. technological progress, economic growth, and national security. Offshoring raises significant challenges not only for engineers themselves, but also for industry, educational institutions, government, and professional societies.... To sustain and strengthen U.S. engineering capabilities in this new environment, the United States may need to consider new approaches to education, career development, management, and policy, and make changes where appropriate.... The focus of the project was in six industry sectors -- software development, semiconductors, personal computer manufacturing, automobiles, construction engineering and services, and pharmaceuticals."] Note: Offshoring... is available for loan
[Request #S08-45-2830]

Book. 240 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12067

Executive Summary. 15 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12067&type=pdfxsum

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Harvesting California's Renewable Energy Resources: A Green Jobs Business Plan. By Peter Asmus, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies. (The Center, Sacramento, California) August 15, 2008. 40 p.

Full text at:

http://www.cleanpower.org/reports_pdf/Harvesting_California_Renewable_Energy_Resources_080815_FINAL_1st_Ed.pdf

["The report surveys major studies and concludes that if California gets a third of its power from renewable sources by 2020, as pending legislation would require, as much as \$60 billion would be pumped into the state economy. Manufacturing could

increase by 200,000 jobs. California is requiring utilities to reach 20% renewable energy by 2010.... A struggle is underway to influence public opinion, with business interests saying the requirement to get one-third of energy from solar, wind, geothermal and other renewable sources rather than coal or gas would cost consumers in higher electric bills, and environmental groups touting the jobs that clean-tech industry would bring to the state." Los Angeles Times (August 19, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-45-2797]

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YOUTH

Can Young Americans Compete in a Global Economy? By Elizabeth Cascio, Dartmouth College. (Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco, California) July 18, 2008. 3 p.

Full text at: <http://www.frbsf.org/publications/economics/letter/2008/el2008-22.pdf>

[“Young Americans entering the labor market today face substantial competition. Employers can look all over the world for workers with the skills to meet their firms’ needs. Are young Americans ready for these challenges? The answer isn’t obvious. On the one hand, U.S. high school students consistently perform worse on international standardized tests than students in other industrialized countries; on the other hand, the United States generally has maintained the highest college completion rate in the world. Sorting out the net effect of these two phenomena on young Americans’ readiness to compete in a global job market has been difficult given the dearth of suitable data.”]

[Request #S08-45-2781]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan: Economic Analysis Supplement. AND: Climate Change Draft Scoping Plan: Public Health Analysis Supplement. By the California Air Resources Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) September 2008.

["Taking strong measures to reduce greenhouse gases to combat global warming would... result in 100,000 new jobs, boost the state economy by \$27 billion and increase personal income by \$14 billion. Households would save \$400 a year because of improvements in energy inefficiency, and per capita income would rise by \$200.... Only two sectors -- utilities and retail trade -- wouldn't increase production and jobs under the plan.... A separate analysis showed that the measures designed to curb greenhouse gas and save energy also would improve public health.

In 2020, the measures would avoid an estimated 300 premature deaths, nearly 9,000 cases of asthma and other respiratory symptoms and the loss of 53,000 workdays." San Francisco Chronicle (September 18, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-45-2881]

Economic Analysis Supplement. 33 p.
http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/economic_analysis_supplement.pdf

Public Health Analysis Supplement. 11 p.
http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/executive_summary_publichealth.pdf

Appendices. Various pagings
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/draftscopingplan.htm#supplemental>
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ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. City of Desert Hot Springs, et al. Riverside County Superior Court. 464585. Ruling on Petition for Writ of Mandate. August 6, 2008. 5 p.

["The court invalidated an environmental impact report (EIR) for a 1,766-acre residential and commercial project that had been proposed for development in the northwest open space areas of Coachella Valley. The Court cited the EIR's failure to analyze the project's greenhouse gas emissions and other climate change impacts.... Respondent contended that a climate change analysis was not required because it would be entirely 'speculative,' given the absence of any formal regulatory guidance, framework, or the necessary analytic tools or methodology. Rejecting this argument, the Court held that the City should have at least made a 'meaningful attempt' to analyze the Project's climate change impacts." ClimateIntel. (August 12, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-45-2820]

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Environmental Council of Sacramento, et al. v. California Department of Transportation. Sacramento County Superior Court. 07CS00967. Judgement Granting Petition for Writ of Mandate. August 12, 2008. 22 p.

["In what appears to be a California first, state highway officials are shelving a major Highway 50 widening plan in Sacramento until they can study whether the expansion will contribute to global warming. The department announced it will not fight a court ruling that the agency conducted an incomplete environmental review for a project that would add lanes on the congested Rancho Cordova freeway. For commuters in the fast-growing Highway 50 corridor, it means no new freeway elbow room -- if any at all -- until at least 2014.... In order to comply with the law, Caltrans also must look into whether more transit, such as buses and light rail, could serve a similar purpose as a widened freeway." Sacramento Bee (August 13, 2008) A1.]

[Request #S08-45-2828]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Issues in Designing a Cap-and-Trade Program for Carbon Dioxide Emissions. Testimony of Peter R. Orszag, Congressional Budget Office, before the Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 18, 2008. 22

Full text at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/97xx/doc9727/09-18_ClimateChange_Testimony.pdf

["Designing a cap-and-trade program to achieve such reductions would include important decisions about whether to sell or give away allowances. Those rights to emit greenhouse gases would have substantial value, and policymakers' choices about how to allocate them could have significant effects on the federal budget and on how the gains and losses brought about by the program were distributed among U.S. households. If policymakers choose to sell the allowances, they could use the revenue that would arise in many different ways, including to offset other taxes, to assist workers or low-income households that might be adversely affected by the cap, to support other legislative priorities, or to reduce the budget deficit."]

[Request #S08-45-2892]

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Carbon Capture and Storage: Assessing the Economics. By Tomas Naucler and others, McKinsey and Company. (The Company, Brussels, Belgium) September 2008. 52 p.

Full text at:

http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/ccsi/pdf/CCS_Assessing_the_Economics.pdf

["Trapping and burying carbon dioxide from power plants could become viable without public funding by 2030, helping nations reduce their dependence on energy imports and meet climate goals. But that could happen only if obstacles to the technology are removed and polluters are forced to pay more to emit CO₂ in cap-and-trade schemes. Carbon capture and storage is seen by industry as a potential silver bullet to curb emissions from coal-fired power plants, which are multiplying rapidly in India and China, threatening to heat the atmosphere to dangerous levels.... Once it has built momentum and been properly developed, the cost of burying CO₂ could fall to 30-45 euros per tonne by 2030." Reuters (September 23, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-45-2897]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Poll Workers: The Office of the Secretary of State Has Developed Statewide Guidelines, but County Training Programs Need Some Improvement. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) September 2008. 123. p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2008-106.pdf>

["The Legislature should consider amending the Elections Code to explicitly direct the Office of Secretary of State to periodically update its poll worker training guidelines and to monitor county adherence to these standards. In the interim, the office should continue with its plans to update its training guidelines and incorporate new guidance on the proper handling of decline-to-state voters. Finally, to the extent feasible, the office should continue its efforts to monitor county adherence to its guidelines through its observation program."]

[Request #S08-45-2894]

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Voluntary Organizations: FEMA Should More Fully Assess Organization's Mass Care Capabilities and Update the Red Cross Role in Catastrophic Events. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-823. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2008. 89 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08823.pdf>

["In a worst-case, large-scale disaster, the projected need for mass care services would far exceed the capabilities of voluntary organizations without government or other assistance. The report is being released on the heels of news that the American Red Cross, the only relief organization with a legally mandated responsibility to help the government provide care in an emergency, is seeking \$150 million in federal aid to cover the costs of assisting the victims of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. That is the largest amount the organization has ever sought from the government, and it underscores the report's findings that the Red Cross and three other large charities... would lack the financial and other resources needed to address a Katrina-like event." New York Times (September 17, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-45-2895]

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STATE BUDGETS

29 States Faced Total Budget Shortfall of at Least \$48 Billion in 2009. By Elizabeth C. McNichol and Iris Lav, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 5, 2008. 7 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/1-15-08sfp.pdf>

["Expenditure cuts and tax increases are problematic policies during an economic downturn because they reduce overall demand and can make the downturn deeper. When states cut spending, they lay off employees, cancel contracts with vendors, eliminate or lower payments to businesses and nonprofit organizations that provide direct services, and cut benefit payments to individuals. In all of these circumstances, the companies and organizations that would have received government payments have less money to spend on salaries and supplies, and individuals who would have received salaries or benefits have less money for consumption. This directly removes demand from the economy. Tax increases also remove demand from the economy by reducing the amount of money people have to spend."]
[Request #S08-45-2785]

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TAXES

Tax Preparers: Oregon's Regulatory Regime May Lead to Improved Federal Tax Return Accuracy and Provides a Possible Model for National Regulation. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-781. (The Office, Washington, DC) August 2008. 41 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08781.pdf>

["No federal registration, education, or testing requirements apply to all paid preparers before they can prepare tax returns. California and Oregon have requirements that preparers must meet before preparing returns in those states.... The California and Oregon programs' costs varied with differences in the programs' scope. Both programs' administrative costs are funded primarily from program fees. California's costs were about \$29 per preparer and Oregon's about \$123.... Officials in both states believe program benefits like reducing the number of incompetent preparers outweigh costs, although neither state had data on benefits. IRS officials said that a national program's costs likely would depend on the program's objectives and features."]
[Request #S08-45-2871]

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HEALTH

HEALTH INSURANCE

Implementing Small Group Insurance Market Reforms: Lessons From the States. By Courtney Burke, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) September 2008. 23 p.

["With millions of small business employees still lacking health insurance, policy-makers in the 50 states are trying a wide variety of measures to help employees gain coverage.... Problems of both cost and access to coverage are acute in smaller businesses..... While some states are considering comprehensive efforts to expand health insurance coverage, many incremental reform strategies have not been widely tested by states -- including reducing mandates, extending dependent coverage, and simplifying administration through insurance exchanges.... States today commonly use three sets of measures to address the problem of small group coverage: regulation of supply, pooling and administrative simplification, and subsidies."]
[Request #S08-45-2883]

Report. 23 p.

<http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=15288>

Press Release. 5 p.

<http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=15294>

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Health Information Technology-Electronic Health Records: A Primer. By Lucien Wulsin and Adam Dougherty, Insure the Uninsured Project. CRB 08-013. (California Research Bureau, Sacramento, California) September 2008. 27 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-013.pdf>

["Achieving universal health care coverage will require significant changes in the health care system. There is an expectation that widespread adoption of Health Information Technology-Electronic Medical Records will play an important role in transforming the delivery of health care by improving the quality of care and reducing costs. However physicians lack an incentive to invest since the benefits accrue largely to insurance companies and health care plans. The role of federal and state governments in establishing standards and providing financial resources for expansion of health information technology is another issue of importance. This background paper reviews and summarizes many of the issues that providers, payers and government will have to address in incorporating health information technology into the health care delivery system."]
[Request #S08-45-2887]

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PHYSICIANS

SB 376: Direct Employment of Physicians: Report to the Legislature. By the Medical Board of California. (The Board, Sacramento, California) September 10, 2008. 19 p.

Full text at: http://www.medbd.ca.gov/licensee/sb376_report_legislature.pdf

["Historically, physicians have been hired as independent contractors. However, the pilot authorized by SB 376 allows qualified hospital districts to recruit, hire, and employ physicians as full-time paid staff in rural or underserved communities meeting the criteria contained in the bill. The goal of the pilot is to improve access to healthcare in such areas.... The Board was challenged in evaluating the program and preparing this report because the low number of participants did not afford us sufficient information to prepare a valid analysis of the pilot.... While the Board supports the ban on the corporate practice of medicine, it also believes there may be justification to extend the pilot so that a better evaluation can be made."]
[Request #S08-45-2885]

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TOXICOLOGY

Association of Urinary Bisphenol A Concentration With Medical Disorders and Laboratory Abnormalities in Adults. By Iain A. Lang and others. IN: Journal of the American Medical Association, vol. 300, no. 11 (September 17, 2008) pp. 1303-1310

Full text at: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/300/11/1303>

["The first major study of health effects in people from a chemical used in plastic baby bottles, food cans and a host of other products links it with possible risks for heart disease and diabetes. It suggests a potential new concern about the safety of bisphenol A or BPA. And because of the possible public health implications, the results deserve scientific follow-up, the study authors said. But the study is preliminary, far from proof that the chemical causes heart disease and diabetes. Two analysts of medical research said the study raises questions but provides no answers about whether the ubiquitous chemical is harmful. The FDA last month released an internal report concluding that BPA exposure is not enough to warrant action." Associated Press (September 16, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-45-2875]

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Draft Assessment of Bisphenol A for Use in Food Contact Applications. By the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (The Administration, Washington, DC) August 15, 2008. 105 p

["FDA estimates that BPA exposure from use in food contact materials in infants and adults is 2.42 µg/kg bw/day and 0.185 µg/kg bw/day, respectively. FDA has determined the appropriate no-observed-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL) for its assessment of BPA to be the NOAEL for systemic toxicity of 5 mg/kg bw/day (5000 µg/kg bw/day) derived from two multigenerational rodent studies. This NOAEL results in adequate margins of safety of approximately 2,000 and 27,000 for infants and adults, respectively.... FDA has concluded that an adequate margin of safety exists for BPA at current levels of exposure from food contact uses."]
[Request #S08-45-2876]

Draft Assessment. 105 p.

http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/08/briefing/2008-0038b1_01_02_FDA%20BPA%20Draft%20Assessment.pdf
[http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/08/briefing/2008-0038b1_01_02_FDA BPA Draft Assessment.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/08/briefing/2008-0038b1_01_02_FDA_BPA_Draft_Assessment.pdf)

Assesment References. Various pagings.

http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/08/briefing/2008-0038b1_01_00_index.htm

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD CARE

Assessing the Validity of the Qualistar Early Learning Quality Rating and Improvement System as a Tool for Improving Child-Care Quality. By Gail L. Zellman and others, RAND Education. (RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California) 2008.

["As a result of the generally low quality of child care in the United States and the increased emphasis on accountability in education policy, quality rating systems (QRSs) are proliferating in the child-care arena. QRSs assess child-care providers on multiple dimensions of quality and integrate these assessments into an easily understood summary rating However, there has been very little empirical examination of the validity of these systems -- how reliable their multiple components are, how effective they are in helping providers to improve the quality of care they provide, and how much children benefit from such improvement. This study assesses the QRIS developed by Qualistar Early Learning, a nonprofit organization based in Colorado that was one of the first organizations to create a QRIS."]

[Request #S08-45-2823]

Report. 130 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG650.pdf

Research Brief. 3 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2008/RAND_RB9343.pdf

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CHILDREN

Toward a Brighter Future: An Essential Agenda for America's Young People. By the National Collaboration for Youth. (The Collaboration, Washington, DC) September 2008. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.collab4youth.org/ncy/documents/TowardABrighterFuture-NCY.pdf>

["Eighteen percent of children in the U.S. are living in poverty, up from 17.4% in 2006 -- the highest percentage of child poverty since 1981. Every year over 14 million young people are left alone to care for themselves after school, while over 2 million runaways have no home to call their own. Eight million U.S. children are without health insurance. Federal spending on children decreased by 10% in the past five years. These policy recommendations for the 111th Congress and the incoming President will begin to help lift children out of poverty and poor health,

keep them safe, elevate our educational system to equip children for the 21st century, and engage youth in the nation's communities. These changes can save money, improve health, strengthen families, and produce a more educated workforce."]

[Request #S08-45-2870]

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FAMILIES

Designing a Marriage Education Demonstration and Evaluation for Low-Income Married Couples. By Virginia Knox, MDRC, and David Fein, Abt Associates. (MDRC, New York, New York) August 2008. 45 p.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/495/full.pdf>

["The Supporting Healthy Marriage (SHM) evaluation is the first large-scale, multisite experiment that tests marriage education programs for low-income married couples with children. The SHM conceptual framework recognizes multiple sources of relationship strength and weakness, and the project's program model has followed this framework closely in adapting the content and delivery of marriage education services for low-income married parents. The year-long program model packages a series of marriage education workshops with additional family support, including case management, supportive services, and referrals to outside services as needed."]

[Request #S08-45-2847]

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FAMILY LEAVE

Parental Leave Policies in 21 Countries: Assessing Generosity and Gender Equality. By Rebecca Ray, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2008. 23 p.

Full text at: http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/parental_2008_09.pdf

["The study examines the parental leave policies of 21 high-income countries and finds the United States to be the least generous. According to CEPR, we pay a high price for our poor policy because parental leave improves the health and well-being of children and their parents and paid leave provide families with crucial economic support at such an important time. The study identifies six countries with 'best practices' for parental leave. These countries employ 5 broad 'best practice' policies: Generous paid leave; non-transferable quotas of leave for each parent; universal coverage; financing structures that pool risk among many employers; and scheduling flexibility."]

[Request #S08-45-2846]

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FOSTER CARE

Evaluation of the Early Start to Emancipation Preparation –Tutoring Program, Los Angeles County, California: Final Report. AND: Evaluation of the Life Skills Training Program, Los Angeles County, California: Final Report. By Mark E. Courtney, Chapin Hall Center for Children, and others. (The Center, Chicago Illinois) July 2008.

["While ESTEP-Tutoring may present a typical set of services, there are unusual aspects of the program that may provide useful information for other independent living programs. The program offers services beyond tutoring, including a mentoring relationship with the tutor and access to other independent living workshops provided through the ESTEP program.... The Life Skills Training program is similar in many respects to services provided in numerous locations throughout the United States (i.e., classroom- and practicum-based training), though there are special aspects as well. There is an extensive outreach component, and the community college locale enables youths to be served in their communities and also exposed to community college campuses."]

[Request #S08-45-2893]

Evaluation of ESTEP. 129 p.

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/chafee/reports/eval_estep/eval_estep.pdf

Evaluation of Life Skills Training. 128 p.

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/chafee/reports/eval_lst/eval_lst.pdf

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TRANSPORTATION

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

The Economic Effects of High-Speed Rail Investment. By Ginés De Rus, University of Las Palmas. (International Transport Forum, Paris, France) August 2008. 38 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/jtrc/DiscussionPapers/DP200816.pdf>

["The examination of data on costs and demand shows that the case for investing in HSR is strongly dependent on the existing volume of traffic where the new lines are built, the expected time savings and generated traffic and the average willingness to pay of potential users, the release of capacity in congested roads, airports or conventional rail lines and the net reduction of external effects. This paper

discusses, within a cost-benefit analysis framework, under which conditions the expected benefits from deviated traffic (plus generated traffic), and other alleged external effects and indirect benefits justify the investment in HSR projects."]
[Request #S08-45-2829]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Refocus. Reform. Renew: A New Transportation Approach for America. By the U.S. Department of Transportation. (The Department, Washington, DC) July 2008.

["The plan is designed to refocus, reform, and renew the national approach to highway and transit systems in America. The plan calls for a renewed federal focus on maintaining and improving performance on the Interstate Highway System, greater flexibility for state and local leaders to invest in their transit and highway priorities, the creation of accountability measures, greater flexibility for states to address their specific safety challenges, and a streamlined federal review process for new transportation projects." TRB newsletter (August 6, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-45-2807]

Plan. 80 p.

<http://www.fightgridlocknow.gov/reform/reformproposal08.pdf>

Overview. 1 p.

<http://www.fightgridlocknow.gov/reform/reformoverview.htm>

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Better Integration of Land Use and Transport at a Regional Level: Scoping of Regional Guidelines. By Paula Hunter, MWH New Zealand Limited, and others. (New Zealand Transport Agency, Wellington, New Zealand) August 2008. 106 p.

Full text at: <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/research/reports/354.pdf>

["The project team considered there were two other key issues that needed addressing. The first was that a 'business as usual' approach was not going to deliver the necessary changes in practice required to better integrate land use and transport. It is necessary to develop a better understanding of the processes of change required so that a complete and integrated package of tools could be developed to assist in the transition to new ways of doing things. The second issue was that political risk needed to be more explicitly examined in the context of land

use and transport integration.... The focus of the second report was on the analysis of political risk as it relates to integrating land use and transport, and how to mitigate this risk in order to ensure implementation."]

[Request #S08-45-2898]

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Transportation Implications of Emerging Economic Development Trends. By Crawford F. Jencks and others, National Cooperative Highway Research Program. (Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC) August 2008. 36 p.

Full text at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rrd_327.pdf

["This report provides practical information that could be used to relate transportation investment with economic development.... The methodology used for this project was designed to tap practical knowledge and experience, drawing in particular from the development and site selection communities most responsible for making or facilitating economic development decisions.... It is focused on the following five subject areas: 1) Business production, inventory, and logistics and distribution trends and practices; 2) Site selection research and practices; 3) Labor market considerations; 4) Urban and rural development practices; and 5) International trade and global market trends and implications."]

[Request #S08-45-2839]

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